

Union clash with charity over mental patients

By Lucy Hodges

A dispute flared yesterday between a nurses' union and MIND, the mental health charity, over a case to be heard in Strasbourg today in which the Government again stands accused of denying rights to mental patients.

The Confederation of Health Service Employees (Cohese), which represents hundreds of psychiatric nurses, yesterday accused MIND of making serious threats to the publicity material it issued about this case.

Mr Albert Spanswick, the union's general secretary, challenged the charity to retract its statements "otherwise the quality of their entire evidence in support of their case will be open to serious doubt".

The case, which will be heard by the European Commission of Human Rights, concerns the right of mental patients to sue doctors and nurses over detention, brutality or, indeed, anything. At present they are prevented by law from doing so unless they can show that a person acted in bad faith and without reasonable care, and unless they can get the permission of a High Court judge.

MIND hopes to change that. Cohese, the union, however, believes that staff must be protected from violent patients and that Section 141 of the Mental Health Act should not be weakened.

The Government seems to agree with the union and has resisted strong pressure from the charity, which campaigns for patients' rights to challenge the law in amending legislation going through Parliament.

Today's case concerns Mr John Ashingdane, a patient who was kept in Broadmoor special hospital for two extra years because local Cohese branches were refusing to threaten to refuse to nurse patients subject to restriction orders.

They did that because Oakwood hospital in Kent, to which Mr Ashingdane was to be transferred, was short of 50 nurses. However, Mr Ashingdane's doctors said he should not be in Broadmoor so MIND decided to sue.

Because of Section 141 his lawyers were prevented from taking legal action against the Kent Area Health Authority and the Department of Health and Social Security.

The case was eventually settled out of court, with the union agreeing that resources were increased and that he was put in a locked ward.

However, the case against the Government went ahead in Strasbourg, where MIND will be arguing that the United Kingdom is in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The union is objecting to the claim by MIND that the union was operating "a total ban" on the transfer of special hospital patients to local hospitals. Mr Spanswick said yesterday there was never a national ban, simply advice to the effect that when a patient constituted a danger to himself and others because of a lack of resources members should refuse to nurse.

"MIND cannot understand the concern of staff over the possible consequences of admission of patients without sufficient facilities", he said. "In 1980 my union took 126 cases of horrifying violence inflicted upon staff to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board."

Mr Simon Hedditch, an assistant director of MIND, said the union was splitting hairs. "We have always acknowledged the difficult conditions in which nurses work and the effects of understaffing, which was precisely why we went against the area health authority and the department, and not the union."

Hospital tries the Star Trek technique

From Pearce Wright
Science Editor, Oxford

Followers of television's *Star Trek* programme are used to seeing the doctor on the spaceship *Enterprise* instantly diagnosing some mysterious disease, by discovering a deficiency or excess of the body's chemistry from a hand-held micro-computer with which he scans the patient.

That idea has moved from fiction into fact with the development of a machine which can identify the imbalance of biochemicals in the body without exploratory surgery, blood analysis or, indeed without touching the patient at all.

The apparatus being tested at the Radcliffe hospital, Oxford, weighs ten hundredweight, yet it measures incredibly tiny magnetic fields of individual atoms within separate cells of a particular organ in the body.

Within a minute the Topical Magnetic Resonance machine produces a biochemical assay that is obtained now only from analysing a tissue specimen in a laboratory.

The device is a long way from providing the instant total body chemistry picture achieved in fiction. But it is revealing deficiencies in the tissues of patients suffering from various muscle diseases and provides information to control the treatment of kidney failures, diabetes and thyroid deficiencies.

A more powerful version will be ready by the end of the year to allow examinations of the brain.

They unravelled the structure and function of chemicals involved in different processes at work in parts of the body.

The present machine in clinical use cost about £250,000 and the larger version, for scanning the whole body, about £350,000. The equipment is made by the Oxford Instrument Company.



Peter Jay, chairman of TV/AM which will provide the independent television breakfast service from early 1983, with a model of the studios on the site near the Regent's Canal at Camden Town, London, yesterday.

Murray's pensions plea

By Lorna Bourke

Pension fund managers should invest more money in British industries, Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, said at a pensions conference yesterday.

"The nation's pension funds must bear at least part of the blame for the most rapid period of de-industrialisation in Britain's history," he said. "Since abolition of exchange controls in October 1979 there has been a flood of overseas investment by the major financial institutions. Between 1978 and the first half of 1979, pension funds more than trebled the proportion of their available cash flow invested abroad."

The money is helping Britain's competitors build further on their advantages.

"Pension scheme members, employers, pensioners and indeed the funds themselves have a common interest in 1979 there has been a flood of overseas investment by the major financial institutions. Between 1978 and the first half of 1979, pension funds more than trebled the proportion of their available cash flow invested abroad."

The Tabbitt Bill

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

TUC battle lines in disarray

One simple test must be applied to the trade union leaders on all sides of the labour movement who have exploded so belligerently about the Government's latest employment-law reforms: can they provide effective opposition?

It is the Cabinet's calculated gamble that they cannot, and that both Mr James Prior's 1980 Employment Act and Mr Norman Tebbit's Bill now embarking on its parliamentary passage will remain on the statute book.

The assumption has so far paid off. The changes have not wrought havoc on the scale of the ill-fated 1971 Industrial Relations Act. There are two main reasons for this: the recession has done most of the work that might otherwise have been entrusted to the law; and the legislation did not offer such a handy lever for opposition as state registration of the unions did under the Heath laws.

The TUC has organized a successful boycott of state funds for secret ballots on industrial action and the election of union leaders. But it has failed to generate any tangible or widespread sense of grievance on the shop floor.

Mr Tebbit's latest set of proposals brought forth a predictable tirade of abuse but few practical proposals to prevent their application. The TUC seeks an extended boycott to take in the suggestion that there should be periodic testing of employees' opinion on existing closed shops and Government-funded ballots on wage offers.

It seems likely that it will succeed in holding the line on this form of non-cooperation; the TUC carthorse is never more successful than when dragging its feet for a purpose. But on the wider political and economic front, the TUC's show of unity is a shaky facade, and it crumbled when put to the test last week.

The mighty Transport and General Workers wants the trade union movement to pull out of the National Economic Development Council and the other myriad tripartite bodies on which TUC representatives sit down with the Government and employers. When the report of the TUC Employment Policy Committee retaining this option went to the full general council five days ago, there was a scene when Mr Len Murray, the general secretary, described pulling out of "Neddy" as irrelevant. Mr Bill Keys, chairman of the committee and leader of the print union Sogat (which has a track record of political strikes against Conservative labour legislation) demurred and insisted on it going into policy pot.

This political response will now be considered, along with various proposals for "national" strikes, when the TUC Employment Committee reconvenes on February 18 to discuss what industrial action may be called in the event of a group of workers coming under threat from the Tebbit laws. The view of Mr David Basnett's General and Municipal Workers' Union and some others is that stoppages should be called right across an industry in response to such "attacks." They want the TUC to have some coordination responsibility in calling such disputes. Congress House staff are unhappy at this prospect, arguing that TUC central funds could be put at risk.

There is also an organizational consideration. It would probably not be beyond the bounds of rank-and-file militancy for the TGWU to deliver a national dock strike if there is any repetition of cases such as the jailing of the "Pentonville Five" dockers in 1972 for contempt of previous Tory legislation and its institutions. A stoppage of train drivers, or miners, or steel process workers or printworkers may also be envisaged in such circumstances.

But quite apart from the under-union sectors such as white-collar employment, could Mr Terry Duffy, president of the engineering workers, deliver his members, as he appeared to threaten in Sunday's *Weekend World* programme. To be sure, it was the left-wing-led engineering union, the AUEW, against the 1971 Act, but it is less than a year since the union's existing moderate leadership was leaning on delegates to the annual policy-making conference to accept state money for the engineers' election ballots in defiance of the TUC's first and most critical boycott.

Had those lay delegates followed the advice of their leader (they did not) the floodgates would have opened for widespread defiance of the Congress antagonism against Mr Prior's legislation. It therefore requires a major effort of imagination to fit the engineering workers into the hard-line posture of the left.

Behind the televised line-up of union rhetoric lies a certainty of purpose overlaid by an uncertainty over strategy. As old-fashioned custodians of their members' subscriptions, union leaders know what they want to do but cannot yet agree how to do it. It is unlikely that they will be able to respond coherently until the crisis erupts in an industry where they have a strength of organization equal to the threat to their funds.

Mr Murray has laid down: "We don't set out wantonly and deliberately to break the law. But if the law prevents trade unionists from exercising their proper functions; they will say 'I cannot live with this law' and we shall take the consequences that flow from that." The transport workers go further, arguing that "some form of industrial action would be effective." So far, it is jaw-jaw. It will be next winter before the TUC barons at present leading with their mouth can follow with their members.

Milk banks for babies defended

From Our Correspondent
Oxford

A leading consultant in child medicine has rejected allegations that premature babies may die if they are fed from breast-milk banks.

Claims were made in *The Lancet*, that milk given by mothers and stored in milk banks could cause fatal infections if given to very small babies.

Dr David Baum is a honorary consultant in paediatrics at the Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, where he relies on the hospital's own milk bank to feed hundreds of premature babies each year.

Dr Baum, who was appointed by Oxford University to specialise in research in child medicine, rejects the allegations about breast milk banks, which appeared in a letter to *The Lancet* from Dr Herbert Barrie, a consultant paediatrician at the Charing Cross Hospital, London.

Dr Barrie likened instances of giving babies other mother's milk to giving blood transfusions. He claims that some babies may be incompatible to different milk.

Dr Baum replies: "This comparison is particularly unfortunate."

He says that "Dr Barrie has not helped the progression towards a sounder basis in the care of low-birth rate infants."

Motorway protest appeal fails

By Frances Gibb

An attempt to force the Secretary of State for Transport to order a fresh inquiry into orders and schemes approved for the M25 motorway between Wisley and Leatherhead, failed in the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Dismissing appeals by two local objectors, Mr Reginald Mayes and Mr John Earl, both of Ashted, Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, said he had great sympathy for their case but it was not well-founded in law.

The objectors claimed that a public inquiry in 1978 into side-road orders and compulsory purchase orders for the land needed was a "complete procedural mess-up".

They appealed against the dismissal of a previous application by Mr Mayes, a chartered electrical engineer and chairman of the Leatherhead-Ashted Motorway Protest Group, by Mr Justice Hodgson last July.

Mr R. A. Sears, QC, for the protesters, argued that the judge had erred in law in not holding that there had been a breach of natural justice by the inspector's refusal to hear evidence and admissions about the line of the motorway between Wisley and Leatherhead or on exhaust pollution.

Giving judgement, Lord Denning said that local people felt that the M25 between Ashted and Leatherhead would diminish or destroy the amenities.

There had been a good deal of upset and disturbance when the public inquiry into the side road orders opened in May, 1978, and the inspector had been unable to proceed with the inquiry, he said.

The inspector sought guidance from Mr William Rodgers, then Secretary of State for Transport, who said a reconsideration of the route was unnecessary. The inspector then said he would hear evidence only on the issue which had arisen since June, 1978. It was that decision, which was the subject of the appeal.

Lord Denning said the minister was entitled not to consider such objections and could tell the inspector beforehand that he was not going to do so.

He cited the case brought by Miss Lesley Lovelock against the North-east section of the motorway two years ago.

"I would adhere to what I said then... the main question is whether Miss Lovelock was entitled to open the second inquiry for the objection she made at the first inquiry. It seems to me," Lord Denning said, "that if a matter has been canvassed at a first inquiry the inspector would be quite entitled to rule that we can't go into that again. It seems that that applies in our particular case."

TV debate could decide result

From Richard Ford, Dublin

IRISH ELECTION

hey's personal rating had fallen from 44 per cent to 22 per cent.

Paradoxically, 60 per cent of those polled thought Fianna Fail would form the next government, irrespective of their own preferences.

Fine Gael depends on the Labour Party maintaining its 15 seats. The prospects for Labour are looking increasingly bad as internal dissent continues to hamper their electoral effort.

Mr Brendan Halligan, Labour's former general secretary and one of the party's leading anti-coalitionists, who was to have run in Dublin seat, has decided not to stand. He is among those who are seriously dissatisfied with Mr Michael O'Leary, the party leader, and the way he handled the argument last week over whether the party should have a joint strategy with Fine Gael for the campaign.

The party's problems have also increased with the retirement from politics of two senior members, Mr Brendan Corish and Mr James Tully, the former Minister of Defence. In working-class constituencies, the harsh measures in the Budget have increased pressure on Labour candidates.

Faced with debts from last year's campaign, both Fianna

The result of the Irish General election could hinge on a "presidential" style television debate between the party leaders, which is planned to be broadcast two days before polling day.

With less than two weeks before polling, and with all three parties just beginning their campaigns, there are clear indications that the runaway victory predicted for Fianna Fail may not materialize.

Early canvassing returns suggest that a considerable number of the nation's 2.2 million electorate are "don't knows", and there are also indications that the image of Mr Charles Haughey, Leader of the Opposition, is not helping the Fianna Fail cause.

The latest opinion polls provide a boost for the Fine Gael — Labour coalition, as Dr Garret Fitzgerald's personal popularity continues to increase and is seen by Fine Gael strategists as the key to their great assets. The findings make gloomy reading for Mr Haughey, who is fighting for his political survival. Even before the election date was announced there were criticisms of his leadership.

In a survey of 306 farmers owning more than 30 acres of land conducted last Saturday, Dr Fitzgerald's personal rating based on satisfaction with his performance, stood at 76 per cent, compared with 57 per cent for the general election last May. Mr Haug-

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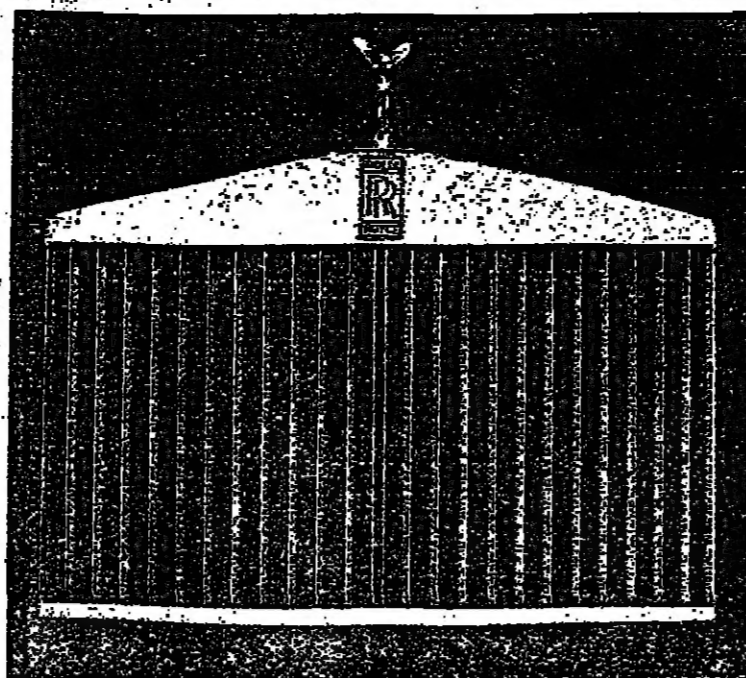
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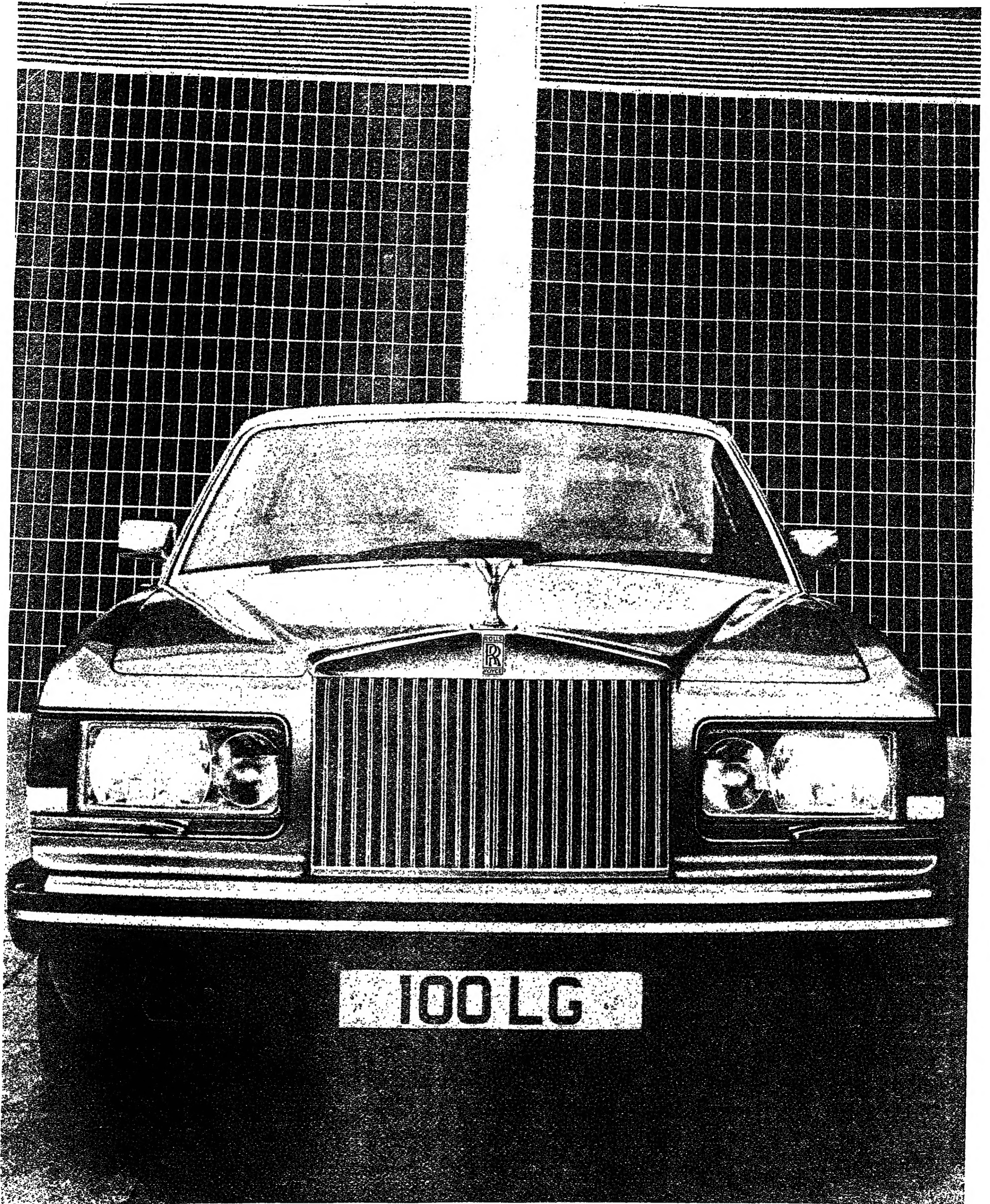


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Sex victims volunteer for jail talks with rapists

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Women victims of sexual attacks have volunteered to meet rapists in Maidstone prison, Kent, so that they can understand better the serious consequences of their crime.

The once-weekly sessions were praised yesterday in a report on Maidstone prison by the Chief Inspector of Prisons.

The women counsellors at these sessions are voluntary associates, volunteers who help the probation service. They take part with groups of six prisoners to talk about their feelings as victims of sexual attack. A probation officer and two uniformed prison officers also attend. A prisoner goes to the group until officers feel he has learnt all he can. According to the Home Office the men taking part are "generally naive, inadequate people with little understanding of the opposite sex or sexual matters." The scheme is one of a number described in the report as impressive and is designed to make prison treatment more positive.

By allowing men to talk to victims the intention is to try to prevent the prisoners fantasizing about women as sexual objects. The probation service has also set up an Alcoholics Anonymous group.

The sex offenders are from a special wing which brings together 100 men from various prisons who have asked to be segregated because of

nature of their offences might lead to attacks by other prisoners.

The report describes the "real achievement of providing a comparatively good quality of life and freedom from intimidation for 100 men who would otherwise have a miserable existence elsewhere."

Miss Joan Lestor, Labour's spokesman on women's rights, yesterday called on Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, to set up police rape squads. (The Press Association reports).

She also demanded changes in police procedure for questioning rape victims.

In a letter to Whitelaw, Miss Lestor, MP for Eton and Slough, said rape squads similar to the United States should be established in Britain.

"I very much encourage you seriously to consider the possibility of setting up specialized training for officers in this country, especially in the Metropolitan area, along similar lines to the existing bomb and drug squads," she said.

Miss Lestor said women should have to make only a brief statement before being examined.

Miss Lestor also insisted that a full statement should be taken only after the woman had had a chance to rest and advised of the possibility of a friend remaining with her.

An anti-rape campaign was started yesterday aimed at warning nurses, to take special care and be extra alert. The campaign, launched by the Nursing Standard, says nurses are at high risk of sexual attack. It wants health authorities to increase security.

Edward Dubois, the "Brixton rapist", who followed young women to their homes and then attacked them, was jailed for nine years at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Judge Mason told him: "During the period of these offences no woman of a respectable kind in this area was safe from you."

"Who knows what effect what you did may have on them for the rest of their lives?"

Dubois, aged 30, an unemployed squatter, had been convicted of raping three women.

The judge told him: "You were medically examined and it is quite clear there is no mental abnormality on your part. The sentence I pass must reflect the horror of which I have spoken and everyone's sense of public outrage over what you did."

Dubois received three years for each rape, the sentences to run consecutively. He received a total of six months for thefts.



Lieutenant-Colonel George Forty, curator of the Bovington Tank Museum, Dorset, who has launched a campaign to place the armoured vehicle collection under cover to save it from weather damage

Computer aid for astronomers

By Robin McKie, of The Times Higher Education Supplement

An advanced technique which will allow British astronomers to operate telescopes in other countries and to carry out all normal experiments from computer terminals in this country is to be launched by the Science and Engineering Research Council.

The first stage of the project is to be established at the council's Hawaii observatory with the aim of running the United Kingdom infrared telescope there directly from its administrative base

at the Royal Observatory, Edinburgh, in a few years.

A second telescope, to study star formation and interstellar dust clouds using radiation of wavelengths of less than a millimetre, is also expected to be built by the council in Hawaii. A formal proposal recommending the move is to be discussed by the council in the next few weeks.

Professor Malcolm Longair, director of the Edinburgh observatory, said the two telescopes would then offer British astronomers "a world-beating combination of facilities". Using the satellite link, in combination with Starlink, the national computer display system that connects Britain's main astronomical centres, scientists would be able to sit at a terminal and operate the telescopes, carrying out their research without leaving their departments.

The project is to be set up in three stages. First, a data channel using telephone lines will connect the infra-red

Confusion blamed for death blast

A misunderstanding led to a chemical plant explosion which killed one man, seriously injured another and resulted in a thousand people being moved from their homes, a court was told yesterday.

An employee misinterpreted instructions from a company director after vapours escaped from a still at the Chemstar plant in Sialybridge, and turned the still back on, causing the explosion, magistrates at Dulciville, Greater Manchester, were told.

The court was told that the firm, which admitted failing to ensure its employees' safety would soon be going into liquidation. It was fined £900.

Dr John Newton, for the prosecution said the explosion on September 6 happened during the "laundering" of 1,200 gallons of highly inflammable hexane chemical, a distillation process which required a perfect supply of water.

Dr Newton said the hot vapours escaped while Mr Norman Halsall, who was purifying the hexane, was helping a lorry driver.

Mr Halsall telephoned Mr John Simon, a company director, and was told to switch off everything and wait for half an hour, Mr Tim Mort, the company's solicitor, said.

But Mr Mort said Mr Halsall misunderstood the instruction and switched the steam from the still back on

Calculated scheme to learn maths

From Our Correspondent, Dereham

Children at a Norfolk school are to have to take a special test before being granted a licence to use a pocket calculator in class.

If they subsequently make a bad mathematical error, the licence will be endorsed. Three endorsements will mean a calculator ban until they have passed the test again.

The scheme is the idea of Mr John Kirby, deputy headmaster and a mathematics teacher at Northgate High School, Dereham. He said he was concerned at the effects calculators were having. Children were using them without knowing elementary facts of arithmetic.

The calculator licence will be awarded on passing a numeracy examination.

"The questions will not demand complicated calculations. Just proof that the pupil has grasped the basic principles of the four rules, decimals, percentages, cancelling, fractions and money," Mr Kirby said.

All children up to the fourth year will be covered by the scheme and licences will be renewed at least annually, subject to success in the numeracy examinations.

The licence will be endorsed for an "unforgivable error", Mr Kirby said.

□ The Cockcroft committee of inquiry into mathematics teaching, whose report was published last week, devotes a whole chapter to the use of calculators and computers in the belief that their increasing availability at low cost is "of the greatest significance" (Our Education Correspondent writes).

It comments on public concern about the use of calculators by children who have not yet mastered the traditional skills of arithmetic, but says that the weight of evidence is that the use of calculators has not produced any adverse effect on basic computational ability. "There can be little doubt of the motivating effect which calculators have for very many children", it says, and calls for the introduction of a national scheme to ensure that each pupil has access to a calculator during mathematics lessons.

The increasing use of calculators in adult life provided an over-riding reason why all secondary pupils should be taught and allowed to use a calculator, the committee says. It recommends that calculators replace logarithm tables.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Leyland workers stay out

Bus and truck workers at Leyland Vehicles' five factories in Lancashire voted overwhelmingly yesterday to continue their two-week strike over planned redundancies, in spite of claims that it threatens the company's future (our Wigan correspondent writes).

Of the estimated 5,000 workers crowded into the car park at the Farington works at Leyland, fewer than 100 voted against continuing the stoppage.

Mr Michael Coyne, strike committee chairman, accused management during the 20-minute meeting of waging a war of words in an extensive local newspaper advertising campaign.

"They are expecting the workers to capitulate under all the publicity and using the tactic of not meeting for another 15 days while this happens," he said. "We will be available for 24 hours a day to talk to them about an honourable return to work."

Judge rewards girl with £30

Helen Brearley aged 16, was praised by a judge at Luton, Bedfordshire, yesterday and given a £30 reward from public funds for her alertness in picking out a thief in an identity parade.

She saw Hugh O'Neill, aged 27, of Luton, dash from a shop after he and another man attacked an elderly shopkeeper and robbed him, at knife-point, of £50. O'Neill was jailed for seven years for the robberies on Wednesday.

Guard hurt in robbery

A security guard delivering nearly £12,000 in wages had his nose broken in an armed robbery by three masked men in Wavertree, Liverpool, yesterday.

Pubs back research

More than £231,000 has been raised for medical research by 615 public houses throughout Britain in the national InterPub contest organized by the Muscular Dystrophy Group.

No bail for youth

A youth aged 15 was remanded for a week by Bristol Juvenile Court yesterday accused of the attempted murder of Police Constable Ian Bennett, aged 36 on January 30. Bail was refused.

Factory sit-in must end

From Our Correspondent, Edinburgh

Plessey, the electronics company, was granted an order by a Court of Session judge in Edinburgh yesterday banning the continued occupation of its factory in Bathgate, Lothian, by members of the work force.

The occupation has been going on since January 25 when it was announced that the factory was to close at the end of March.

A petition seeking an interim interdict named 141 workers including 10 shop stewards. After hearing legal argument Lord Kincaid said: "I am not in a position to judge the action taken by the company, or to judge the policy being pursued. I am concerned with the occupation of the premises." He added that the action of the work force might or might not be politically or industrially proper, but they had

not denied at the hearing that the company had the right to prevent the occupation of the premises without their authority.

Three members of the work force appeared.

Mr George Wilson said: "If there is any natural justice, then that justice would be on our side." Lord Kincaid commented: "I do not administer natural justice. I administer the law of Scotland, which may or may not be justice. I can't tell you whether your cause is just — just whether it is legal."

Mrs Anne Moonie said the occupation was the only way to draw attention to their plight.

A meeting of workers afterwards decided to continue the occupation, and hold another meeting at the weekend. (Our Shotts Correspondent writes).

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Mapping the ocean floor.

For years Britannia ruled the waves. Now through a majority investment in Ocean Data Systems Inc. (USA) and its wholly owned subsidiary, Global Weather Dynamics Inc., IAL is about to gain new market opportunities in oceanography, meteorology and digital colour graphics display systems.

A new era in air traffic control.

Last October, the UK Civil Aviation Authority awarded IAL the contract for equipping the London Air Traffic Control Centre with a microprocessor-based voice communications system, IAL Stratus. This will help to achieve even higher standards in safety and efficiency.

The £150m medical services contract.

Through its associates, the International Hospitals Group, IAL has already started work on a massive £150m medical services contract for the Saudi Arabian National Guard.

The hotel run by computer.

During the past year IAL has masterminded and financed the development of Maxial, a totally new computer based hotel management system. This technology will meet the increasingly sophisticated demands of the hotel and leisure industries, on a worldwide scale.

New factories. More employment.

While cut-backs are the talk of other boardrooms IAL continues to expand.

In August our Data Communications Division will be opening a new factory complex near Basingstoke.

Naturally, we are involved in many more new developments: for example, satellite ground processing systems and fibre optics. Of course there are other projects of a sensitive nature that also hold great potential for the company. And thus for the economy.

If you're interested in more facts and figures our Company Secretary will be happy to post you a copy of our Annual Report.



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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Creation scientists retreat

New York.—The final note has been sounded in the retreat of the so-called "creation scientists" of Arkansas (Michael Hamlyn writes). The state's Attorney General announced that he was not proceeding with an appeal against the judgment that a law requiring balanced treatment between evolution and creation in schools was unconstitutional.

Crash pilots knew about ice

Washington.—A tape from the airliner that crashed into the Potomac River three weeks ago, killing 78 people, suggested that the pilots took off knowing there was ice on snow on the wings, the Washington Post reported.

Festival rejects Disney film

A Walt Disney film depicting the flight by hot air balloon of two families from East Germany to the West has been rejected by the Berlin Film Festival (Kenneth Gosling writes). No reason was given, a spokesman for Walt Disney Productions said.

Missing imam case closed

Rome.—The Rome magistrate in charge of investigations into the disappearance in August, 1978, of Moussa, a Lebanese Shiite imam, has ordered the case closed, a source in the judiciary reported.

Poison gas accusation

Berlin, Feb.—A West Berlin firm has been manufacturing illegally a poison gas ingredient and shipping it to Israel, the city prosecutor's office said.

Hospital check on Kissinger

New York.—Henry Kissinger, the former Secretary of State, is in hospital in Boston for what his staff called a routine check-up. He is due to be discharged today to go on holiday.

Trip to Japan

Paris.—President Mitterrand will make a state visit to Japan next April, at a date yet to be decided. It will be the first by a French President to that country.

Squabbles over 39-hour week

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Feb 4

The French Government decree for reducing the working week to 39 hours and introducing a fifth week of paid holidays a year, has got off to a bad start. Its scope was not clearly defined by the Government, as the Prime Minister himself has admitted, and it is being very differently interpreted by the employers and the unions.

The consequence was the outbreak of a rash of local conflicts, strikes and stoppages, of which the most spectacular is the work to rule by customs officers, causing delays and disruption for the past week, mainly to road traffic, but also at airports.

The customs officials have threatened to paralyse traffic if their own, often unwritten,

Mubarak fails to bridge gulf on Palestinians

From Nicholas Hirst, Washington, Feb 4

Despite a firm assurance of Egypt's commitment to the Camp David peace process, President Mubarak has underscored the deep differences between his country and Israel on ways to solve the Palestinian problem.

After a second meeting here today with President Reagan, Mr Mubarak reaffirmed his commitment to the present Palestinian autonomy talks: "We are determined to pursue our peace efforts until a comprehensive settlement is reached according to the Camp David accords", he said in a formal statement on leaving the White House.

But no new initiatives on how to bring about a breakthrough have emerged from the discussions in Washington.

President Mubarak in another formal statement yesterday emphasized that the 1.2 million Palestinians living in Israel-occupied territory on the West Bank and Gaza Strip had a right to function as a national entity and to self-determination.

This would not necessarily mean creating a nation state, but moving some way towards it and does not accord with the limited autonomy that the Israelis have in mind.

A spokesman for the Israeli Embassy here said today that the call for a national entity deviated from the Camp David accords.

President Mubarak since taking office has been trying to heal the break between Egypt and the other Arab nations which had developed over Egypt's rapprochement with Israel. His public statements are regarded as a sign that he is searching for a solution to the Palestinian problem with which other Arab states could concur.

Like President Sadat during his visit last year, President Mubarak called last night on the United States to open talks with the Palestinians.

President Reagan, however, reiterated the American promise to the Israelis that negotiations with the Palestinian Liberation Organization could take place only if the PLO agreed to the long standing conditions of accepting United Nations Security Council resolutions and agreeing to Israel's right to exist as a nation state.

□ Tel Aviv: Israel today approved the development of a new generation of fighter-interceptor aircraft to be called Lavie and signed an agreement with Pratt and Whitney for the joint development of its engine (Moshe Brilliant writes).

Known as the PW 1120 the engine is to be based on the F100 produced by Pratt and Whitney for F16 and F18 aircraft. The agreement put into effect a contract concluded last year and signed today by Mr Ariel Sharon, the Defence Minister and Mr Frank McAbee of United Technologies, the parent company of Pratt and Whitney.

The Government alternative approval of the Lavie project was said to have been coproduction of American aircraft, but a squadron of F15, F16 and F18 would be so expensive that the Air Force would not be able to afford enough aircraft, according to parliamentary procurement committee.

□ Mr Sharon told a press conference that terrorist breaches of the ceasefire were building up, and he said Israel would not accept a return to the situation that preceded the July ceasefire. He said Israel would not initiate fighting but would respond to attacks.

He held PLO headquarters in Lebanon responsible for directing terrorist attacks wherever they occurred.

He said there were 60 breaches of the ceasefire which was arranged in July by Mr Philip Habib, the American special envoy. Half of them were in the South Lebanese strip controlled by Major Saad Haddad, Israel's ally. More than 20 attempts were made to infiltrate from Jordan but most of these were intercepted by the Jordanians. The rest of the breaches occurred in Europe where terrorists attacked Jewish and Israeli institutions.

□ Major Haddad demanded today that the United Nations and Israel halt an increase in Palestinian guerrilla forces in the area (Reuters reports).

He said the number of Palestinian guerrillas had risen in recent weeks from 500 to more than 900 and were infiltrating within any difficulty into the area held by United Nations forces, especially near Tyre where the Senegalese contingent let them through.

Major Haddad said the guerrillas had used the ceasefire made last summer to strengthen their units.

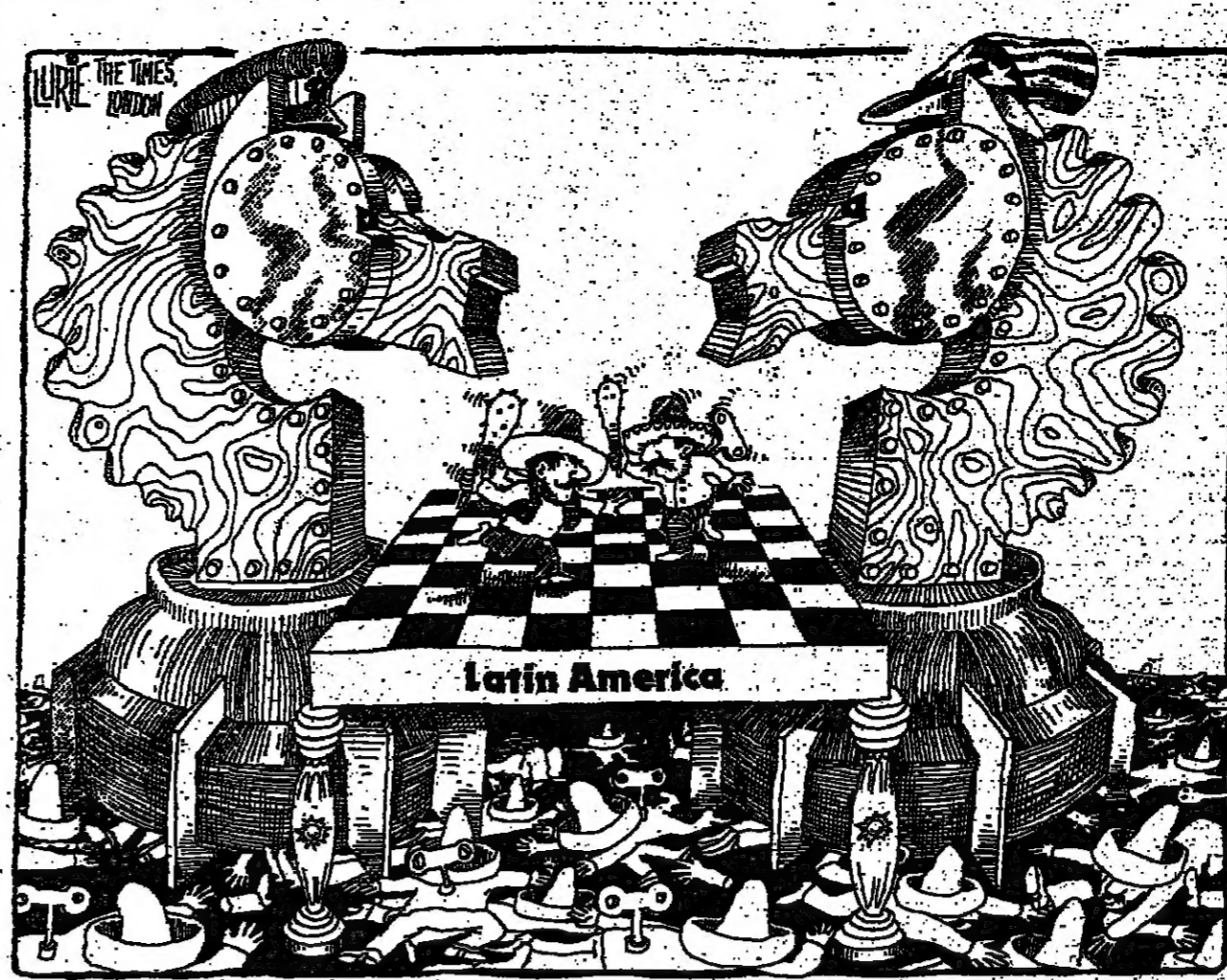
□ New York: Arab states appeared determined today to press ahead with a resolution which could pave the way for Israel's expulsion from the United Nations (Zoriana Pysariwsky writes).

The State Department yesterday issued a statement saying any threat or attempt to expel Israel or any other member state would violate the principle of universality on which the United Nations was founded.

It added that the United States has made it clear that suspension or expulsion of Israel from the United Nations or any other of its affiliates would have serious consequences for continued American participation in and support for the United Nations.

The statement, however, appeared to have little effect on the sponsors of the draft resolution, which also calls for a military, economic, diplomatic and cultural embargo against Israel.

New Cairo style, page 12



US defence cost put at £113,600m

From Mohsin Ali, Washington, Feb 4

While President Reagan puts the finishing touches to the 1983 budget which he is to send to Congress next week, his senior officials have been juggling with figures which would appear to raise the level of defence appropriations while not increasing the size of the overall budget deficit.

According to administration sources, the President's budget message will call for actual defence spending amounting to \$215,900m (£113,630m). This amount, which is a record since time of defence budget, is about \$1,000m more than the president had predicted last September.

Additionally, the President will seek an extra \$13,600m in new budget authority for the Pentagon. However, this amount will not actually be spent during fiscal 1983 but will enable the Pentagon to make contracts which would have to be paid for in subsequent years.

Mr Casper Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, discussed the proposed increases during a closed session of the Senate armed services committee earlier this week.

Some reports of what Mr Weinberger told that meeting gave the impression that the President had agreed to a further increase in actual defence spending rather than in budget authority.

Administration sources said the main effort in shaping the new defence budget had focused on keeping 1983 spending increases in check.

Despite the strains which NATO is undergoing, the administration remains solidly committed to it. It is a matter on which even Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, and Mr Casper Weinberger, the De-

Spain given advice on rowdies

Tempers rise in trade war

Spain given advice on rowdies

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, Feb 4

Perhaps the Basque country traditionally one of the regions of Spain feeling most good-will towards Britain, does not yet know what is going to hit it when English football supporters descend on Bilbao next June for the first of England's games in the World Cup finals.

So far even the taxi drivers have been seeking to learn some English as the Basque community generally prepares a welcome for an event seen as promising good football combined with good tourist trade.

But tomorrow Mr Neil Macfarlane, the Minister for Sport, will be in Madrid for talks designed to help the Spanish authorities cope should the minority element of hooligans who wreak havoc in and around English football games decide to come to Spain as well.

He will talk to Señora Soledad Becerril, Minister of Culture, who also has responsibility for sport. Mr Macfarlane's trip comes after a visit last month by officials trying to help with Britain's experience of the hooligan element.

The hope is that the warning will reach the security officials and police at the time when England and Scotland are to play.

Mr Edward Barrett, British Consul-General in Bilbao, commented: "I think we should try and look on the bright side, reckon the authorities have the full picture by now."

As many as 15,000 British football supporters could arrive in Bilbao for the game, and one idea the local tourist authorities are examining is providing extra accommodation in ships tied up on the Nervion estuary.

The Commission official took nothing like so rosy a view. The drop in the rate for biscuits, he said, would be from 38.5 per cent to 36.3 per cent.

New terror wave feared

From Harry Debelius, Madrid, Feb 4

The Basque separatist organization ETA-PM can be expected to resume its campaign of violence soon, a source close to the Basque home rule government said in Madrid today.

It announced in a clandestine communiqué soon after the attempted coup of February 1981, that it was suspending its urban guerrilla activities on the ground that it did not wish to give coup apologists any kind of justification for trying to overthrow the constitutional monarchy.

In spite of that it kidnapped Dr Julio Iglesias, the father of the popular singer, in Madrid on December 29 and held him for 19 days. Police tracked him down, rescued him and arrested his captors.

ETA-PM then claimed that the kidnapping was not a violation of the truce, since it was carried out to finance the organization's operations and not for political motives.

Mr Romberg also said the Government had seized Zelaya's leading independent radio station, prohibiting circulation of the country's only independent newspaper, and expelled religious workers from the region.

In Managua today, the Defence Ministry spokesman, Captain Roberto Sanchez, claimed the plot had been led by Mr Stanislav Fagot-Muller, a Miskito Indian of

Japan's failure to satisfy European demands for more open markets will be studied by the European Commission next Wednesday against the growing background of national measures for protectionist measures.

At the same time three European Commissioners will be in Washington bargaining with the American authorities over claims that Europe is dumping unwanted steel and agricultural products on the American market.

It was clear in Brussels today that tempers are rising on both trade fronts as one senior commission official held an informal briefing to tell journalists that if American harassment continued "there will be a good deal of blood on the floor".

He gave a warning that unless everybody stood by the rules "we could relapse into a chaos of bilateralism of the type which existed in 1939 with consequences of the kind for which many Europeans paid with their lives". So far, however, the trade war is less one of conflicting words than of conflicting figures.

Japan this morning produced a new set of numerical assurances that Japan really was doing its best to open its markets. There would be 1,633 items with reduced tariffs between now and 1983, and the reduction averaged 15.6 per cent — a loss in revenue to the Japanese Government of \$200m (just over £100m).

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Hostility to press plan rejected as hysterical

From Michael Hornsby, Cape Town, Feb 4

Mr R. E. Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, today described as hysterical and premature the hostile press reaction here and abroad to the proposals of the Steyn commission of inquiry into the mass media.

In an interview with The Times, Mr Botha maintained that the press coverage of the Steyn report had been deliberately "dished up in such a fashion as to give the impression to the reader abroad that the Government intends to kill press freedom in this country".

"Some papers here obviously expected the Government to rescind immediately, and to clamp down on the press, and the Government did exactly the opposite", Mr Botha maintained. "The present hysterical outburst is apparently based on frustration that the Government did not react as expected."

The Steyn report, accompanied by draft Bills embodying its proposals, was tabled in Parliament earlier this week. If implemented, the draft laws would, among other things, require all journalists to be licensed by a statutory board of controls. This has been widely condemned as a means of imposing political conformity.

The Prime Minister's response in Parliament to the Steyn report had been, "very, very categorical and clearly stated", Mr Botha declared.

"He said that the Government could not give a conclusive 'yes' or 'no', that it was a voluminous report, that it required study and that negotiations would take place with the press. Now what is a reasonable attitude can any government adopt?"

It was impossible, Mr Botha insisted, for the Government to indicate what its final position might be.

Mr Botha: Little comfort for journalists.

when it was still only "at the beginning of a process of discussion with the press". Nor would he be able to express any personal view on the Steyn proposals until he knew what the outcome of these negotiations were.

Mr Botha's comment will be likely to calm the fever of editors and journalists here who question the motives of the Government in commissioning the Steyn report in the first place and are alarmed that the Government should be prepared even to consider a measure like the compulsory registration of journalists.

The Foreign Minister's remarks tend to confirm the view gaining ground here that the Government's initial strategy was to try and persuade the press to exercise self-censorship while holding over its head the threat of legislation as a weapon of last resort.

The Government's main target is the influential English-language press, which is by far the freest in Africa and keeps up a constant nagging assault on the policy of apartheid. Pretoria would clearly love to see this criticism stifled.

In response, newspaper owners and editors have set up a committee to draw up a plan for remodelling the existing, though largely ineffectual, South African Press Council.

part-German ancestry who formerly headed Misamisata, an organization representing three Indian tribes inhabiting Zelaya.

Mr Muller fled the country last May and now lives in neighbouring Honduras. The separatist movement, which Captain Sanchez said was called Operation Red Christmas, started last November.

He said the conspirators hoped to foster anti-government feelings among the residents of the province and start an uprising, thus paving the way for intervention by "foreign military forces that would support the separatist plan".

In addition to creating a "climate of terror" in the province, the conspirators had simultaneously planned to carry out an ideological-type campaign aimed at sowing confusion and aversion toward the Sandinista revolution" in Zelaya, Captain Sanchez said.

□ New York.—Cooling relations with the United States could push Nicaragua into the Cuban and Soviet camps, although Managua would prefer strengthened ties with Washington, Father Miguel d'Escoto, the Nicaraguan Foreign Minister said here today.

Nicaragua crushes 'plot to split the country'

Managua, Feb 4.—Nicaragua announced today that its security forces had smashed a "communist-revolutionary" plot to separate the eastern province of Zelaya, from the rest of the country and had arrested more than 100 people in the province.

Last week, the United States State Department spokesman, Mr Alan Romberg, accused the Sandinista Government of oppressing Miskito Indians in Zelaya, a predominantly black, English-speaking province. The Nicaraguan Government denied the allegations.

Mr Romberg said the Government had declared Zelaya a military zone and restricted travel in the region. The province, which is rich in resources, occupies about half of Nicaragua's territory.

Mr Romberg also said the Government had seized Zelaya's leading independent radio station, prohibiting circulation of the country's only independent newspaper, and expelled religious workers from the region.

In Managua today, the Defence Ministry spokesman, Captain Roberto Sanchez, claimed the plot had been led by Mr Stanislav Fagot-Muller, a Miskito Indian of

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News in Summary

Air crash kills 31 legionnaires

Paris.—Thirty-one foreign legionnaires and a five-man French Army crew were killed when their aircraft crashed during a training exercise in Djibouti, a Defence Ministry spokesman said.

There were no survivors when the aircraft struck a mountain in a desolate region of the former French East African colony. "As usual, the legionnaires were of various nationalities but no names will be released," the spokesman said. The cause of the crash was not known.

The legionnaires had just started a four-month training tour in Djibouti after arriving from Corsica. Djibouti gained independence from France in 1977 but French military units remain there under bilateral agreements.

Rubik cube world contest



Professor Erno Rubik, who will head an international jury for a world Rubik cube championship this spring.

Rules of the competition are to be announced in March. Professor Rubik said a time limit for solving the puzzle should be set as a condition of entry. The contest is to be organized by the Hungarian Konsumex Foreign Trade company and the Politechnika Industrial Cooperative.

Warship carries Crocker yacht

Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.—A yacht on which Michael Crocker, the British yachtsman, was murdered by an intruder on Saturday morning has been taken to Curaçao, Dutch Antilles, on board the British warship Fearless.

Mr Crocker's widow Trisha is to return to Britain at the weekend with the body of her husband which will be buried at Henley of Tuesday.

Greece protests over buzzing

Athens.—Greece has protested to the United States over the alleged violation of Greek airspace last Sunday by two American fighter jets, the Foreign Ministry said. The jets buzzed a Libyan airliner south of Crete.

Mr Ioannis Haralambopoulos, the Foreign Minister, summoned Mr Montague Stearns, the American Ambassador, and delivered the protest. He then had talks with Mr Abdel Majid Gamoudi, the Libyan Ambassador.

Seoul police hold 11,500

Seoul.—Police have arrested more than 11,500 people in the capital of South Korea in a four hour period (Jacqueline Rediff writes).

Nearly half of those involved committed traffic offences. More than 1,000 were said to be habitual hoodlums, 643 juvenile delinquents, 181 thieves, 104 were harassing citizens, while 4,064 were simply described as "others".

Haiti Cabinet reshuffled

Port-au-Prince.—President Jean-Claude Duvalier of Haiti has reshuffled his Cabinet and made several changes in his top military command.

Five of the 15 Cabinet ministers were removed from their posts, three new under-secretaries of state were appointed, and the two top posts at Haiti's Central Bank were changed.

Proll sentence cut

Frankfurt.—The West German Appeals Court reduced by six months the five and a half year sentence imposed two years ago on Astrid Proll, a former member of the Terrorist Red Army Group after her extradition from Britain.

The court ruled that Proll should be punished for her role in one bank robbery rather than two others for which a lower court found her guilty.

ETA shooting

Madrid.—The military wing of ETA, the Basque separatist organization, have claimed responsibility for the shooting on a Spanish naval lieutenant as he was driving in a jeep through Zarauz, near San Sebastian. He is said to be satisfactory in hospital (Richard Wigg writes).

Polish Primate and Pope review crises

From Peter Nichols Rome, Feb 4

The Pope, at his first meeting with the Polish Primate, Mgr Jozef Glemp, since martial law was declared, today reviewed what chances remain of a change for the better in the Polish crisis.

Mgr Glemp was accompanied by two other prelates, Cardinal Kacharski, the Pope's successor as Archbishop of Cracow, and Mgr Henryk Gulbinowicz, Bishop of Wroclaw. The three prelates were speaking with the full authority of the whole national episcopal conference and reflect varying experiences and attitudes.

Wroclaw remains a centre of working class opposition to General Jaruzelski's regime. When Mgr Gulbinowicz left his diocese there were still reports of demonstrations, go-slows in factories and distribution of pamphlets critical of the Government.

The bishop will certainly have reflected this more belligerent attitude while the Archbishop of Cracow is still seen to be more patient. The atmosphere, however, is gloomy.

The nature of the meeting was described today at a high level in the Vatican as a reflection on what has happened and what we can expect in the future. There is now felt to have been sufficient experience of General Jaruzelski's Government to attempt an appraisal of the question of whether there can be hope for better things or whether "there is nothing to be seen but a continuing long black tunnel".

The three prelates went tonight to the Pope to begin their talks on their arrival in the late morning and were immediately given to understand that they were the Pope's luncheon guests. The survey will be exhaustive and may last until the eve of the Pope's departure for Nigeria on Friday next week.

This series of meetings has begun dramatically for more than one reason. The Pope is aware that his policy so far

has brought him more expressions of doubt and criticism than practical results. His last detailed survey with his advisers took place at the end of December when Mgr Luigi Poggi, his itinerant nuncio with a special brief of Poland, returned from his visit to Warsaw.

The policy agreed then was that every effort should be made to allow the regime to prove, if it wished, that it aspired to a degree of a autonomy from the Soviet Union that, in the phrase used at the Pope's table at that time, General Jaruzelski conceivably might prove to be another Tito rather than a Russian puppet.

This fundamental decision meant that the Vatican could not even informally approve the United States policy of sanctions in so far as they were likely to embitter the situation still more by making hungry people hungrier.

The tone of the Pope's public appeals in the meantime has shown his growing anxiety with the failure of the regime to take to heart his demands for the recognition of human rights.

The Vatican's answer to allegations of being too moderate towards the military junta has been, and remains, that there is no moderation at all in the insistence on an end to mass arrests without trial and on support for the Solidarity free trade union movement.

This is the field in which the Roman Catholic Church feels that its weight can best be mobilized and so continue its historic role of a leading element in Polish national life in modern conditions. It remains the one institution with great popular support and so the one possible partner if the regime sincerely wants dialogue.

This is a vulnerable position and is one of the reasons, apart from questions of general principle, why the church would welcome the reinstatement of Solidarity as an active force. The fate of the union has been described at the Vatican as the key to the situation.

Zia closes Libyan centres

From Haslan Akhtar Islamabad.

Libyan "friendship centres" in Pakistan have been closed on the orders of the government. They have been operating for some time in Rawalpindi, Lahore, Karachi and Peshawar and are financed with Libyan money.

Their ostensible purpose was to foster closer contacts at people-to-people level. The reason for their closure by General Zia ul-Haq's Government was not disclosed.

Pakistan's relations with Libya since the late Mr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's Government was ousted in 1977 have been uneasy. Mr Agha Shahi,

the Pakistan Foreign Minister, made an unannounced visit to Libya last month the object of which has never been explained.

Pakistan recently recalled 3,000 of its nationals who had been recruited for unspecified "security jobs" in Libya. It has been frequently reported that Libya is harbouring anti-Government Pakistanis and even financing some clandestine activities by the Al Zulfikar Movement headed by sons of Mr Bhutto, who was hanged after his fall from power.



Down to earth at 60 mph

Private Terry Bennett, aged 20, of the United States Army's elite Golden Knights parachute team, fell 8,500ft to the ground after his parachutes malfunctioned.

The tangled main and reserve canopies slowed her descent, but her speed when she hit the ground near Fort Bragg, North Carolina, was still estimated at between 60 and 70 miles an hour. She escaped with a dislocated elbow, two broken bones in her wrist, and a chipped right ankle bone.

Private Bennett, who has completed 850 jumps, said her parachutes bled tangled like "a big bag of garbage". She landed in a ploughed, muddy field, which absorbed most of the shock.—Reuter.

Demand for purge of left in China

Peking, Feb 4.—A senior Chinese official called today for a purge of remaining leftists in the Communist Party hierarchy as China planned further reductions in radical influence in its bureaucracy.

Mrs Zhang Yun, a member of the influential party disciplinary committee, wrote in the ideological journal Red Flag that followers of the disgraced Maoist "Gang of Four" still held high positions and were sabotaging party policy.

Diplomatic sources said Mrs Zhang's article was the strongest appeal for a purge to appear so far in China's two-month-old campaign against bureaucratic practices.

Mrs Zhang, one of the few women in the higher echelons of China's leadership, said getting rid of leftist influence was one of the main problems facing the party. She accused many members of using their position for personal gain.

She said the problem to a large extent arose because the party, now 39 million strong, had doubled in size during the Cultural Revolution of 1966-76, when leftists held almost total sway.

To support her case, Mrs Zhang quoted a speech by Mr Deng Xiaoping, the powerful

Vice-Chairman, who said in January 1980: "Among party members who joined the party under the extreme leftist line, some have never been educated by the party. They should not be held up as models for the masses and are not up to standard." Mrs Zhang also quoted from a previously unpublished report by the disciplinary committee which attacked corrupt party members in unusually strong terms.

The report also said many officials "have changed from servants of the people to old gentlemen who ride on the backs of the people, tyrannically abusing their powers".

CIA and last days of the Shah



In the wake of the Shah: A supporter of President Bani-Sadr lies dead in the battle for fundamentalism

Seething dissent that Washington ignored

From Michael Hamlyn New York, Feb 4

A fascinating description of the closing stages of the rule of the Shah of Iran is being extracted here from the 13 volumes of documents seized when the United States Embassy in Tehran was invaded. They have now been published in Iran.

One striking feature of the detailed reports from the American diplomats and Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) men is how accurate they reflected what was going on, and how well they forecast the future events.

The public statements of the Carter Administration, and to some extent the official high-level reports being offered by the Ambassador conflicted with the ground-level intelligence reporting and with reports from middle-rank diplomats. Hitherto the CIA has been blamed for providing inaccurate assessments of the Shah's weakness and the mullahs' strength. This is now seen as less than fair to the agents on the ground.

The picture drawn by the documents is of a Shah surrounded by a corrupt and venal court, blackmailing Washington into vastly excessive arms purchases, while a seething religious leadership built up more and more strength in the mosques and bazaars.

Extracts from the documents published in the Washington Post over the past few days show that doubts about the stability of the regime appeared in secret estimates from the CIA and State Department analysts two full years before the Iranian revolution.

They also show that the over-supply of arms to the Shah caused some worrying questions to be asked. For example a major intelligence review drawn up by Mr David Blee in 1976, then the national intelligence officer for the Middle East, said: "Washington does not have a clear perception of the Shah's long-range objectives, for example, why is he acquiring such a vast array of sophisticated military hardware. The Shah states that adequate defences



Peacock splendour: The Shah, his wife and son at the unveiling of the Reza Shah monument to 50 years of the Pahlavi dynasty in 1976.

against communist-equipped Iraq are merely precautionary, yet the placement of new bases suggests other interests."

The intelligence officers did admit that their information was "poor", as critics have insisted; but the blame must go, the documents point out, to the lack of cooperation they got from the United States military.

The military intelligence arm responsible for liaison with the Shah's huge military machine was extremely loath to pass on information.

Nor were the intelligence men well informed about the simple basics of decision-making within the Shah's Government. Did the Shah decide everything for himself, or did he delegate broad authority to others, are questions that were debated in the documents with no satisfactory conclusions reached.

But where the documents were extremely accurate was in their assessment of the role to be played by the clergy. As early as 1976, a year before President Carter described Iran as "an island of stability", the CIA was reporting "in the eyes of the religious leaders, Muhammad

Reza has betrayed an essential element of his role, protection of Islam. The present generation of religious leaders, moreover, seems to be convinced that the Shah, as his father before him, is determined to destroy Islam in Iran."

The CIA even estimated that "probably no more than 10 per cent of the clergy... can be counted as outright supporters of the Shah". These "are probably the least influential of the clergy and are considered by many to be no better than government employees".

More important, the report said "probably 50 per cent are in outright opposition to the Government and are wholly dependent on their popular following for support. This includes nearly every religious leader of any stature".

Another CIA report describes bluntly the near isolation of the Shah and the character of those surrounding him: "The royal court has traditionally been a hotbed of Byzantine scheming. In the Shah's family are an assortment of licentious and financially corrupt relatives..."

Two years later the middle-ranking diplomats and CIA agents were painting an appropriately even gloomier picture. But still, official Washington appeared to be underestimating them. Mr William Sullivan, the Ambassador, was still expressing optimism in his official cables until late in 1978.

Even after the turning point riots in Jaleh Square in September 1978, when army units and helicopter gunships massacred a crowd of demonstrators, the Carter Administration renewed its support for the Shah.

While Mr Victor Tomseth, the American Consul (who was later a hostage), reported that anti-American feeling was rapidly growing, the Ambassador forwarded much more optimistic assessments.

Mr Tomseth wrote that the American sentiment often took the form of: "We have nothing against you personally, but Iranians dislike Americans because 1) You keep the Shah in power; 2) American weapons kill our people; 3) You are a bad moral influence on our children; 4) You do not respect Islam; 5) You have caused inflation and shortages, etc. Several people, out of genuine concern for individual Americans they know, have advised that they leave Iran quickly lest something happen to them."

But Mr Sullivan a few days later reported: "An air of calm has been restored to the cities... but the Shah and the Government face an enormously complicated task of establishing its leadership, creating some sense of confidence in the Government itself, and achieving a popular consensus for its policies."

A month later, and only two months before the Shah's fall, Mr Sullivan wrote: "While it is too early to make definitive predictions, there are encouraging indications that the Iranian crisis may have passed a fever point and opened some prospects for its constructive resolution."

He added: "In the meantime, the Khomeini star seems to be waning."

The identities of six of the people Kennedy had spoken to and recorded, as well as the subject matter of their conversations, were blacked out on the log obtained by the newspaper.

The existence of some Kennedy tapes — but not their extent — had been known ever since a statement by Mr Fenn in 1973. The Kennedy family handed over the tapes to the library in 1976.

A secret taping system installed by President Nixon led to his resignation during the Watergate scandal, when it was revealed that the recorded conversations varied from his statements on the affair. Mr Nixon's system, unlike President Kennedy's, was voice-activated, and contained about 4,000 hours of conversation.

Kennedy taped Oval office calls

Boston, Massachusetts, Feb 4.—President John Kennedy secretly recorded conversations and telephone calls with world leaders, congressmen and his aides while he was in the White House, Mr Dan Fenn, the director of the Kennedy Library said today.

"I have no reason to think they knew they were being taped," Mr Fenn said of the people recorded in 100 to 140 hours of taped meetings and conversations. The tapes are being examined at the library here in preparation for their release to the public, possibly this summer.

Mr Fenn said 250 telephone conversations and 325 meetings in the Oval Office in the White House were recorded from mid-1962 to November 1963, 15 days before the President was assassinated.

Among those recorded in telephone calls were Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia, General Douglas MacArthur, Dr Billy Graham, the evangelist and Mr Adlai Stevenson, the United States representative at the United Nations under President Kennedy. The list also includes members of Congress, according to an index of the tapes that Mr Fenn had.

The subjects of the conversations included Vietnam, the Cuban missile crisis, the integration of the University of Mississippi and civil rights in general.

"I haven't the vaguest idea why Kennedy used the tapes or saved them," Mr Fenn said. "I hope we'll be able to open some of them early this summer. When they're available, they'll be available to anyone, junior high school students, Arthur Schlesinger or anyone."

Any potentially classified material will be referred to the originating agency, which will decide whether to keep it classified or allow the museum to release it.

Miss Evelyn Lincoln, Kennedy's personal secretary, was quoted by the Washington Post today as saying that the President threw a switch as a signal to her start taping. She would activate either a recorder attached to his telephone or microphones in the Oval Office.

According to the report, the most frequent names listed among participants were Robert Kennedy, the Attorney-General, and brother of the President, Mr Dean Rusk, the Secretary of State, and Mr Robert McNamara.

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GIBRALTAR GUARANTEE IS SOUGHT

From Richard Wigg Madrid, Feb 4

Gibraltar and its future status as an integral part of Spain would be the central theme of negotiations with Britain starting on April 20, Señor José Pedro Pérez Llorca, the Spanish Foreign Minister, told Parliament in Madrid today.

The talks will open near Lisbon on the country Spain lifts its blockade of Gibraltar. Señor Pérez Llorca said Spain would seek guarantees of identical treatment for its nationals with those for the Gibraltarians.

He was reporting to the foreign affairs committee of the Lower House on last month's talks in London between Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, the Spanish Prime Minister.

The Foreign Minister emphasized: "The one thing Spain will not accept of anybody is the possibility to dispose of the future of a territory which is an integral part of Spain and whose future status will be the central theme."

American social issues, 1

Right wingers stir up new busing battle

This article by Peter David is the first of three by Our Washington Staff on social issues facing the American Congress

A week after hearing President Reagan promise to continue America's "long journey towards civil rights for all our citizens", Congress is bracing itself for a legislative confrontation over the emotionally-charged issue of school busing.

With the backing of conservative Republicans who control the Senate, two senators — Mr Orrin Hatch of Utah and Mr John East of North Carolina — are introducing a Bill which would abolish forced busing in all but a few exceptional cases.

Liberal Republicans and Democrats alike have sworn to oppose the Bill at every stage of its passage through Congress. And civil rights leaders have promised that if it is ever approved the Bill will be challenged in the Supreme Court.

The move against busing is one of a number of proposed Bills which the Republican right wing is pushing rapidly forward in the new session to enact the conservative social agenda delayed last year while President Reagan's economic programme was being steered through Congress.

Busing is high on this agenda because for nearly two decades it has been viewed by liberals as a symbol of racial desegregation, and by conservatives as a specially outrageous example of federal interference with the personal choices of citizens.

The Bill has already been welcomed by the Senate Judiciary Committee, an intra-party move which Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, a leading Republican hawk, is a leading Republican hawk.

Senator Lowell Weicker of Connecticut, a liberal Republican, intends to use every possible parliamentary delaying tactic to block the legislation in the Senate and marshal public opposition to the measure.

More important, the Bill will not even be debated in the House of Representatives unless its supporters can outflank the liberal House judiciary committee by collecting enough signatures for a discharge petition — rarely used procedure to force debate on a Bill rejected in committee.

Critics of busing say that bringing black children into schools which were previously predominantly white has lowered standards and inflamed the racial tensions the policy was intended to reduce.

Supporters of busing claim the Bill would undermine the Supreme Court's historic ruling in 1954 outlawing racial segregation. And they say that by stripping federal courts of their power to enforce long-standing civil rights laws, the Bill would be unconstitutional infringement by Congress of the jurisdiction of courts.

President Reagan is against identifying too closely with the Bill, although he opposes forced busing in principle. But the President is likely to be dragged into the controversy if the Bill is ever approved.

Mr Arthur Flemming, whom the President recently dismissed as chairman of the Commission on Civil Rights, after it published a report calling for stronger administration support of busing, said the commission would ask the President to veto the Bill if it were approved by Congress. If he refused, the Bill would be challenged in court on constitutional grounds.

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David Watt

Roy Jenkins: the ayes have it

For the first year of his existence, the Social Democrats have done pretty well with their polycephalous leadership. An effective composite picture can be made out of Mr Jenkins' weight and experience, Dr Owen's drive and energy, Mr Rodgers' solid political judgement, and Mrs Williams' extraordinary public appeal.

Admittedly we have occasionally caught glimpses of a rather less glamorous beast, possessed of Mr Jenkins' fastidiousness, Dr Owen's bad temper, Mr Rodgers' lack of charisma, and Mrs Williams' indecision. ("Has it occurred to you," said Shaw to Mrs Patrick Campbell, "that our offspring might have my looks and your brains?") Nevertheless, the success of the quadrumvirate has been quite sufficient to prompt the obvious question: why change a winning formula? Why must Dr Owen start stirring things up with tiresome "challenges" and the like? Why start a leadership contest now, and indeed why start one at all?

The answer to the "why now?" part is easy enough. Time is getting on. The constitutional convention of the SDP takes place in two weeks' time and will debate a clause which provides for a leadership election in the early autumn by an electoral college consisting of MPs. It may well be expected to provide that in the first leadership elections the electoral college should consist of the entire membership of the party, but there is no suggestion that the quadrumvirate should be retained.

Another factor is the practical need for a final arbiter with authority to settle disputes, treat with other parties, and provide definitive answers to the media in the crucial eighteen months' run-up to the next election. Surprisingly few wires get crossed (at any

rate in public), considering the complexity of the new operations where the party is involved — policy-making, negotiating with the Liberals, building the party machine, and keeping the party's parliamentary end up. But the point is now being reached where none of these different activities can any longer be detached from the others. A view has to be taken for better or worse on the whole stance and direction of the party, and until it has a leader such a view is hard to crystallize.

This last point is also the key to the question "Why have a contest at all?" The fact is that each of the four gangsters represents not only different temperaments but also different aspirations and ways of looking at the future of the party. It is not always easy to separate these strands, but it is important to realize that calculations of personal advantage are only half the story. The half is that four very able and civilized politicians, having risked a great deal together and having already achieved an astonishing amount, are genuinely enjoying something new and significant in each other's company. But an examination of the scene as it appears from their very individual viewpoints may cast some light on the argument.

● **Mr Jenkins.** One of his supporters described him the other day as "an old man in a hurry". The first part of the description is perhaps unkind for a very well preserved 61-year-old, but the "hurry" part is certainly right. Unlike the others, he must regard the next election as his last serious chance of becoming Prime Minister and must therefore hope for more than a mere "hung" Parliament in which the Alliance holds the balance of power and forces through proportional representation ready for 1989 or whenever. The big push has got to



Roy Jenkins: he can handle the Gang

come now. It follows that the Alliance is far more important to him than the SDP as such, and now that Mr Steel has said he will serve under him, the Liberal connection is more valuable than the balance of potentially winnable seats between the two parties — provided, of course, that the SDP catches a respectable minimum sufficient to block a Steel government. Mr Jenkins's disapproval of Mr Rodgers's entirely reasonable warning shot across Liberal bows at Christmas is highly significant.

● **Dr Owen.** He is often accused of ruthless ambition, and no doubt he has a fair share of it. But his main objection to Mr Jenkins is that he (Jenkins) does not see the SDP as a party that is primarily a radical alternative to the Labour Party and is prepared both by temperament and self-interest to allow it to become a predominantly middle-class alternative to the Tories. Dr Owen is often a bit vague about what exactly he means by "radical" and what causes Mr Jenkins ought to espouse in order to get his seal of approval.

On trade union reform, for instance, which ought to be a litmus test and on which they are supposed to be at odds, the two men are, so far as I can see, in

agreement on a cautious line which will distinguish them from the Government. Nor is it at all clear that Dr Owen's (as opposed to Mr Enoch Powell's) "radicalism" is what working-class voters want anyway. Nevertheless, on an emotional level, Dr Owen is right. Mr Jenkins, whatever he may have been in the past, is not very radical today, except in the sense that he would like to change the constitution. He is an old-fashioned Liberal-minded centrist, and his image, like Campbell Bannerman's, is of a man who still represents

"The accursed power that stands on privilege And goes with women and champagne and bridge."

This combination may not necessarily turn off the voters of Warrington and Hillhead, but it may not necessarily solve the country's problems and bind up its wounds either.

● **Mrs Williams.** She seems, as so often, to be in two minds. In some moods she recognizes that Mr Jenkins is the only possible leader of the Alliance and therefore of the party. In others she insists on the voice of Dr Owen and her socialist conscience (she is probably the only genuine socialist remaining among the four), which admonish her to shake her head over Mr Jenkins. Her own star naturally also tempts her to run. Neither she nor Dr Owen consider the leadership of the party outside Parliament as much more than a device to console the loser, but she would probably take it all the same if she stands and then loses.

● **Mr Rodgers.** He is a Jenkins man, and though he has a genuine enthusiasm for the SDP and is far wiser of the Liberals than Mr Jenkins, he will not wish to have another punch-up with them before Mr Jenkins is safely elected at Hillhead. He has had a love/hate relationship with Mrs Williams ever since

they were at Oxford together more than 30 years ago, and at a basic level he probably does not take her very seriously. He is irritated by Dr Owen's tactlessness and pretensions, and is probably human enough to be jealous of his popular impact. He is therefore in favour of the idea that Jenkins should be leader in Parliament — and future Prime Minister — and Mrs Williams leader in the country. If Mr Jenkins were to fail at Hillhead he would presumably run himself and would probably win if he chose to lay with MPs.

The conclusions of all this are not very hard to make out. First of all, it is perfectly obvious that Mr Jenkins has got to be leader of the party. He is the only one under whom Mr Steel could serve, but he is also the only one who could handle all the other three of the Gang from the position of leader. The notion that he could somehow lead the Alliance but not the SDP is hopelessly artificial. On the other hand, it is equally obvious that Dr Owen is right to resist a walk-over. There ought to be a contest, otherwise the suppressed strains and resentments among the four will actually grow. A leadership fight will clear the air, legitimize the winner, and validate whichever policies and visions of the future he or she represents. Moreover, it will do no harm at all if Mr Jenkins is given a run for his money and is obliged to prove to the members of the party his specifically SDP (as opposed to his Alliance) credentials.

All new parties come to this kind of parting of the ways, after an early period of flux (I would recommend a reading of the Acts of the Apostles to anyone who doubts it). The sooner a democratic decision is taken, the better.

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How Mubarak sets the new Cairo style

by Christopher Walker



Shaikh Kishk, not considered an immediate threat.

Cairo When President Mohammed Hosni Mubarak arrives in London tomorrow, he will be leaving behind an Egypt whose internal mood, style of government and approach to foreign relations has altered significantly since the assassination of President Sadat less than four months ago.

While an increasingly anxious Israeli Cabinet has been quick to coin the phrase "de-Sadatization" to describe what it fears might be a gradual end to the spirit which led to the 1979 peace treaty, Egyptians from every walk of life are fusing in their sense of the approach being adopted by their workmanlike new leader. Even naturally cautious diplomats have been impressed by the performance of a man many considered incapable of moving so adroitly into the job.

Although large, idealized portraits of the former president still adorn many public places in Cairo (possibly as a deliberate reminder of the cult of personality which he is now blamed for encouraging), little respect is being shown for his memory. At the last count, one academic researcher had already noted 216 new anti-Sadat jokes which have been circulating since his death.

In stark contrast, the 53-year-old President Mubarak — once the butt of local jokes about his alleged lack of intelligence — has so far escaped the type of cruel, personalized humour which in the past has so often served as a form of political safety valve for ordinary Egyptians.

Particularly appreciated has been his strict order that members of his family are not to benefit from the presidency and instructions that all pictures of his attractive, half-Welsh wife Susan are to be kept out of the newspapers. This early move accurately pinpointed being adopted to the opposition. "We now have personal access to the President on all important matters, and I know that I can call him any time on the phone."

Further evidence of the new liberalization will come later this month when Dr Hilmi Mourad, the party's deputy leader takes his place at the three-day economic conference being organized by the government in an effort to hammer out Egypt's five-year plan. Only a few months ago, Dr Mourad was languishing in a 10-man cell, branded as a threat to national security.

As yet, the majority of changes have been ones of approach rather than policy. But their importance comes from the way in which they have identified the main frustrations felt by the 42 million Egyptians. A widely predicted target of the Cairo economic conference will be the excesses in luxury consumption caused by the 1974 open door economic policy, although in general the policy will remain in force.

Perhaps realizing that moves will one day have to be made to unscramble a subsidy system which costs the exchequer \$5,000m a year, the President has insisted that formulation of economic reforms takes the form of a national dialogue, of which the conference will be the focal point. Commenting on its prospects, one diplomat said: "Unfortunately in all problems and the remedies are already known. It is just that most are too unpalatable."

Because of the recent slump in the tourist trade, a slowing down in the growth of oil revenues and other factors, Egypt has seen its \$1,500m balance of payments surplus in 1980 transformed

into a deficit which is expected to reach \$500m by the end of the fiscal year in June.

In foreign relations, the widely-predicted move back towards closer ties with the Arab world has begun, with emphasis on semi-private contacts with such potential friends as Saudi Arabia rather than any dramatic gestures. Much energy has been expended on emphasizing Egypt's non-aligned status while Arab governments have been told firmly that Egypt has no intention of scrapping the peace with Israel.

The gradual rapprochement with the Soviet Union, although watched with intense suspicion from America's Cairo Embassy (its third largest in the world) is seen with more equanimity by west European governments, who seem convinced that an exchange of ambassadors is inevitable in the post-Sadat era. All signs point to a levelling out of the extremes of President Sadat's last-day policies rather than any imminent 180° turn from Egypt's pro-Western position.

Inevitably, economic ministers were at the heart of President Mubarak's first Cabinet reshuffle. Last month, the one aspect of his new government which has failed to win much approval from diplomats based in Cairo, anxiously monitoring prospects for the future, there is a strong feeling that it was only temporary in nature and will require a follow-up.

Altogether 12 new ministers were brought in and the main economic post went to Abdel-Fattah Ibrahim, the former governor of the Central Bank who is handicapped by continuing ill health. Uncertainty and lingering doubts prevail among western governments about why Mr Mubarak failed to pick a more impressive team. As with Mr Mubarak's other policies, the emphasis is on caution, a determined avoidance of the flamboyance and unpredictability associated with Anwar Sadat, and a conscious effort to run a government more responsive to the wishes of the masses.

From a western point of view, doubts about the post-Sadat era are likely to disappear if the new President catches his early promise. But given Egypt's horrendous social and economic problems, it still remains a big if.

From Kanpur, Richard Streeton sums up England's cricket tour of India

The glorious certainty of statistics

Kanpur Was the Test match series which ended here yesterday between India and England the dulllest of all time? Probably not, has to be the answer, though it came fairly close to it.

India won the first match in four days, and the next five all petered out tamely in draws, meaning that 25 days' play had been completely pointless in terms of results.

Most cricket enthusiasts, though, would not summarise what has taken place in recent weeks in those sort of terms. Unlike the United States, for instance, where there is no provision in baseball for a drawn match, a clearcut result has never been considered essential in cricket. In fact many cricket lovers would cite famous instances where a side has managed to stave off defeat and draw among their most vivid memories.

There has, in fact, been a great deal of stimulating cricket played in the Test matches just finished, with some fine batting to enjoy. Everyone will have their own examples of cricket's dulllest series but those between India and Pakistan — in Pakistan, 1954-55, and in India, 1960-61 — would appear in most lists. Ten successive Tests were drawn with not a gesture or any attempt made by either side

The Indian tour: England's performance									
Test Matches: Played 6, Won 0, Lost 1, Drawn 5									
All First-Class Matches: Played 13, Won 2, Lost 1, Drawn 10									
Batting						Bowling			
	Matches	Inns.	Not Rns.	Highest	Avg	Overs/Maidens			
				Score					
G Boycott	8	14	5	701	105.77.88	D L Underwood	304.1	120	
A G Gooch	11	18	3	869	127.67.83	J E Embury	307.1	79	
I T Bortham	10	14	1	747	142.57.83	R G D Willis	214.1	52	
K W R Fletcher	11	15	5	624	108.52.40	J K Lever	189	38	
C J Richards	5	5	4	61	18.51.00	P J Allott	144.4	82	
D I Gower	11	15	2	606	94.45.81	I T Bortham	292.3	63	
C Cook	5	7	2	257	104.42.52.33	R G D Willis	196.2	25	
J J Topley	11	17	0	676	149.39.76	Also Bowled: G Cook 6.5-1-21-2			
M W Gatling	11	13	1	455	127.37.91	121-2, M W Gatling 11-1-40-1			
G R Dille	9	10	2	189	52.23.60	150-2, D I Gower 5-2-6-1, C J			
D L Underwood	9	8	5	60	22.00.00	Tavare 4-0-18-0, R W Taylor 2-0-6-0			
R G D Willis	9	5	3	26	13.00.00				
R W Taylor	10	9	1	101	40.12.62				
J E Embury	10	10	2	76	33.95.60				
J K Lever	7	4	0	34	16.50.00				
P J W Allott	5	3	0	10	3.33.00				
*Not Out									
CATCHES TAKEN BY FIELDERS									
9, A G Gooch: 7, I T Bortham: 6									
M W Gatling: 2, P J W Allott: 2									
Embury: 2, G Cook: 2, R G D Willis: 1									
Underwood: 2, J K Lever and R W Taylor: 1									

to reach a definite result. There were political and national undertones to these games, of course, but India and England also drew all five Tests in 1963-64 when, as in recent weeks, the pitches were just too perfect.

Cricket's appeal for its devotees has seldom lain solely in the bare result. It might be an overstatement to say that they do not mind about the outcome of a game but it is a definite fact that the poorest attendances in the County Championship come on the third day when the captains usually try to contrive a clearcut result.

The 1981-82 Tests have been unusual in that in four games the first innings were not completed until the fifth day (in other words, the halfway stage was barely reached) and also for the fact that the number of balls bowled sank to a record average low of around 78 an hour. This is a deliberate modern tactical ploy by the captains to slow down the tempo, and later this year the legislators are expected to lay down a mandatory number of overs that must be reached in a day; but for the million spectators who watched India and England, the over-

riding consideration was that India should retain their 1-0 lead in the series. A test match nowadays is no longer an entity in itself but is merely a part of a series, with national prestige at stake and settled by the overall outcome. There are already signs in Australia that five-day tests have lost their appeal compared with one-day games and something similar could follow in India, where the years ahead will see a spectator reaction. In India, where time means so little, that is some way off.

All this series has produced batting records; no game excels cricket for its capacity to yield records and the following reveal in the statistical aspect of the game more than the Indians. There was hardly a day in the series when there was not something statistical to enjoy. In the second Test at Bangalore, it was Gavaskar, the King Emperor of Indian cricket, who batted 708 minutes, longer than any other Indian before him, with the crowd loving every moment of the English frustration. In Delhi over Christmas it was Geoffrey Boycott passing Gary Sobers's world record Test career aggregate that claimed the limelight.

Then came Madras, with Viswanath's 222 falling by nine runs to become India's biggest ever Test score. Here in Kanpur there was always the comforting knowledge, in a match that lost ten hours to the weather, that India were about to clinch the series. For Kapil Dev yesterday to make one of Test cricket's quickest centuries was merely a bonus for a full house.

These examples are only a few of the reasons why for the enthusiasts present the 1981-82 series was far from dull. Obviously, it was cricket at its best, but then so much present day Test cricket does not show the game in its best light.

THE TIMES DIARY



Congratulations to Peter Tory, my opposite number on the Daily Mirror. He is either a master of disguise who owns his own clip-on moustache, which can be useful in

our profession, or he has the most vigorous growth of hair on any upper lip in Britain. On Tuesday the column was headed with smiling clean-shaven face. On Wednesday he had sprouted a fine moustache. Yesterday it was gone again. The truth may be that Tory has grown a moustache, but was terrified by what he saw when he looked in the Mirror on Wednesday morning whether he now sports a floppy hat, dark glasses and a

are selling Bush House." But he would give no hint of the purchaser or price.

Doe-it-yourself Paul Clifford of Wrexham is turning a fast buck, touring the town by van selling rabbit and chips. After a week, customer reaction has been sufficiently favourable to double his fleet and soon he hopes to cover Clwyd, expanding his range of convenience foods to rabbitburgers and rabbit pies.

Clifford and his wife, Jo, found it impossible to make a decent living from their 100-doe rabbit farm. They mortgaged their all and, with the help of a grant from the Welsh Development Agency, set up a rabbit-processing factory able to handle 40,000 animals a week. Rabbit is readily available on most supermarket shelves, most of it imported from China, but Clifford claims that his rabbits, all

home-reared, are superior, "not just something you put in a stew".

The meat, long tainted by its association with myxomatosis and wartime substitution for chicken, may be recovering popularity. Last week Simpson's in the Strand restored it to the menu for the first time in 30 years. Theirs is cooked in cream and mushroom sauce and costs £4.50 a portion. For the moment, Clifford, selling breadcrumbed joints with chips at 70p, is still avoiding Bugs Bunny versus Captain Birds Eye hostilities by keeping his vans to the byways of Wrexham industrial and housing estates where fish fryers do not venture.

Wait for it Gustave Ledun, director of the armagnac brandy producers' association, was lurching at that most English of establishments, the RAC Club, and though the menu is in French, he seized directly upon ported shrimps and grilled Dover sole.

The only fish available in his region of Gascony, he says, are tench, and the trick of cooking them is to steep them alive first in milk and then in armagnac. This sounds too cruel for English taste, though not much crueler than the RAC's sommelier. When asked for armagnac, he said: "That's the drink they make from cognac, isn't it?"

A certain disability The Royal Institute of British Architects wish to improve access for the disabled to their Grade II listed headquarters in Portland Place. At present there is a metal ramp, which they want to replace



He has real prospects, Daddy; he's Index linked...

with a permanent stone ramp to give access to wheelchairs. They applied for planning permission from Westminster council on October 14. It was the third week in January before statutory notices about the change appeared on lamp-posts outside the building. The matter has yet to go to a committee for consideration.

While it is plainly right that architects could not be trusted to design anything so simple as a wheelchair ramp for their own building, it does seem that Michael Heseltine's attempts to cut down on planning delays face another setback.

PHS

In war, in peace you need his help



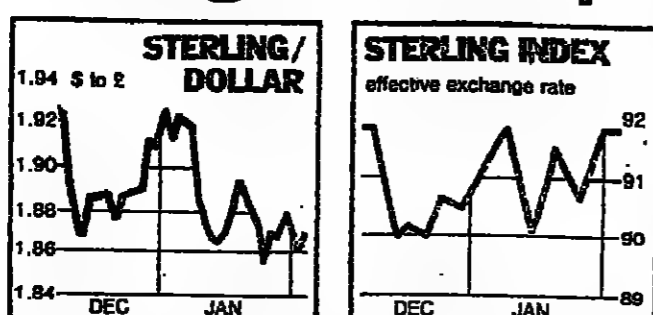
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BUSINESS NEWS

Sterling one cent up



The pound rose against the dollar on the money markets but fell against some other major currencies. The effective rate slipped slightly, closing at 91.7, down 0.3. It was 100 points up against the American currency, at \$1.8700. The pound has been strengthening for some days on the effective rate, climbing one percentage point during the last eight trading days.

Nissan UK talks

Senior executives of Nissan, the Japanese car maker, are expected in London next week for talks in Whitehall on the company's proposed United Kingdom car manufacturing plant. The delegation will be led by Mr Masataka Okuma, vice-president. Nissan is believed to have selected a site for the factory last year, probably in the north-east. The talks are expected to lead to a formal announcement of the chosen site.

PSBR on course

The public sector borrowing requirement in the nine months to December totalled £9,710m. But after allowing an estimated £3,000m for the impact of the civil servants' dispute, the underlying figure is about £6,750m, apparently on course for the Government's estimate of £10,500m for the full financial year. In the three months to December, the PSBR was only £12m, helped by the recovery of about £1,500m of delayed tax.

Business Editor, page 17

● Ghana is the world's most expensive country for a Briton, according to a survey by Employment Conditions Abroad. Inflation there means a British style of meal would cost more than ten times as much as in Britain.

MARKET SUMMARY

Lucas leads a retreat

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 574.8 down 0.16
FT Glts 64.95 up 0.32
FT All Share 328.72 down 1.40
Bargains 19,335

Move more than 1,000 redundancies jobs at Lucas Industries' aerospace division produced a sharp burst of reverse thrust to the market's ambitions yesterday. After a cautious start, equities, retreated amid nervous selling, something the jobbers had tried to achieve all week, as stock shortages became more acute. The FT index closed 3.2 down at 574.8 after being 2.3 down at 10am.

Lucas shares tumbled 8p to 221p and were the cause of hefty losses on all other aerospace leaders. Smiths Industries fell 12p to 356p, Hawker Siddeley 10p to 340p, and British Aerospace 9p to 195p.

Gifts also showed signs of running out of steam, but, after initial falls recovered to close 2 1/2 up in longs and 2 1/2 up in shorts in reduced trade.

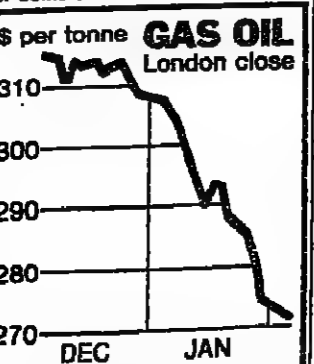
Among blue chips P & O & Q resisted the trend rose 1p to 133p on renewed Far Eastern support. Several market sources said the long-awaited bid could be weeks away instead of months.

Elsewhere in shipping, London & Overseas Freighters added a further 1 1/2p to 62p in expectation of a bid from Leane Investments, the Panamanian group. Fisherie on behalf of Mr Faisal Hashim, who owns 17.23 per cent of the equity.

Royal Dutch/Shell fell 2 1/2p to £17.03 1/2 as a line of 200,000 shares, worth £3.5m, went through the market at £17.50p. This in turn depressed Shell, which slipped 6p to 372p.

COMMODITIES

● Gas oil prices mainly held on the International Petroleum Exchange in London yesterday, with May closing at £271.50-£272.2 a tonne. More distant contracts weakened were also steady suggesting that traders expect Saudi Arabian oil production to remain below 8.5m barrels a day for some time.



● By contrast, coffee rose noticeably. March robustas were up 276.50 a tonne to £1,286, and May was £37 higher at £1,208. Traders said nearby supplies are still tight.

TODAY

Housing starts and completions for December.
Company results: Burt Boulton, Dura Mill, English Associated Group, ML Holdings, (half-year), Portsmouth and Sunderland (3 months), Associated British American and General Trust, Glasgow Stockholders Trust (finals).

OTHER EXCHANGES

Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1,384.15 down 15.77
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 7,834 down 25.24.

CURRENCIES

● The dollar weakened in late trading. The pound recovered from a day's low of \$1.8615.

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1187.00 up 100 points
Index 91.7 down 0.1
DM 4.3775
Fr.F 11.0900
Gr.F 435.50
DOLLAR
Index 111.4 unchanged
DM 2.3350 down 220 pts
GOLD
\$384.50 up \$6.25

MONEY MARKETS

● Markets held steady. The Bank bought £262m of bills on a forecast shortage of £300m. Its dealing rates were unchanged.

Domestic Rates:
Base rates 14%
3-month interbank 145-144
Euro-Currency Rates:
3 month dollar 15-15 1/2
3 month DM 10 1/4-10 1/2
3 month Fr.F 15 1/4-15 1/2

Storm over tripled US budget deficit

From Bailey Morris Washington, Feb 4

A new turore over the Reagan Administration's handling of budget figures erupted in the US House of Representatives today as Democratic and Republican leaders received more bad news about the projected deficit for the 1982 fiscal year.

Based on current estimates of total Federal revenues expected in the 1982 fiscal year ending in September, House leaders were told they must write a new 1982 budget resolution showing a deficit almost triple the earlier projection.

The 1982 deficit is now expected to climb to \$109,500m, up sharply from the earlier projection of \$37,700m largely because of increased defence expenditures and higher than expected costs for social programmes.

Members of the House budget committee received unpublished figures showing greatly increased Federal outlays of \$741,000m in 1982 and lower than expected revenues for the year of \$631,200m.

This would result in a deficit of more than \$1,000m, Mrs Alice Rivlin, director of the Congressional Budget Office said. She disclosed the figure in testimony before the House armed services committee.

The United States stock market reacted to the news almost immediately dropping three points by midday after showing small gains most of the morning.

Mr James Jones, the Democratic chairman of the committee said the new deficit forecast indicated the Administration's basic economic assumptions have been wrong all along. He said they

Emergency powers for Belgian economy

From Peter Norrman, Brussels, Feb 4

Belgium's centre-right coalition government of Mr Wilfried Martens has put forward its first "train" of measures to revive the country's economy. Others will follow under the emergency powers that parliament granted the government this week to push through its economic programme.

In tackling Belgium's economic problems of high unemployment, a huge budget deficit and a growing gap in the current account balance of payments, Mr Martens's coalition of right-wing liberal and centrist Christian parties has chosen to mix wage restraint and government measures to get investment moving.

The week's first package of measures under the special powers were anything but painful. To aid the building industry the government has decided to cut value added tax on construction to 6 per cent from 17 per cent for two years, and suppress capital gains tax on unused building land.

It is awarding tax concessions to the self-employed and owners of small businesses and reducing VAT on gold to just 1 per cent from 6 per cent.

Oil taxation policies readily criticized

By Jonathan Davis, Energy Correspondent

Several North Sea oil fields now offer less than commercial rates of return as a result of the harsher tax regime introduced by the Government last year, two oil experts claim today in a swingeing attack on the Chancellor's oil taxation policies.

Mr Alexander Kemp, Reader in Economics at Aberdeen University, and Mr David Rose, his research assistant, say that the introduction of special petroleum duty in the last Budget has pushed the real rate of return on Shell, Esso's South Cormorant discovery and the Frether field, operated by Union Oil, two proven fields, below 10 per cent.

A number of other fields, including Beatrice and Magnus, give real returns of less than 15 per cent, the minimum that oil companies are normally prepared to accept for such high-risk capital-intensive projects.

New rub-out pen joins £85m sales battle

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

A novel ball-point pen whose latex-based ink can be erased with a rubber is adding a new dimension to the already complex battle among different systems in the £85m-sales pens market.

A carbon-copy battle of the new throwaway erasable ball-points seen in the United States between Gillerie's Papermate range and Wilkinson Sword's Scripto starts next month in Britain. In the United States the tussle between these two companies, long rival in the razors market, has taken volume sales of the erasable ballpoints to as high a level



Hoesch's cold rolling mill at Dortmund: modern mills but outmoded steelmaking plant.

Heavy losses lead to German steel merger

From Peter Norman, Brussels, Feb 4

West Germany's second and third largest steel companies today announced plans to merge their steel making capacity to be known as Ruhrstahl AG.

The plans were approved at meetings of the supervisory boards of Krupp Stahl in Bochum and Estel Hoesch Werke in Dortmund.

A joint statement said the steelmaking operations would be pooled by the end of this year, with other divisions following as soon as possible.

Krupp Stahl and Hoesch have incurred heavy losses as a result of the European steel crisis. The decision to pool their resources follows more than a year of discussions and will be followed by a request for state aid to help finance rationalization measures.

The two companies each produced around five million tonnes of crude steel last year, accounting for about one quarter of total West German output. Their combined turnover was around DM12,000 (£2,750m).

Krupp Stahl is the steel-making arm of the Krupp engineering and heavy plant manufacturing group while Estel Hoesch Werke is the West German part of Dutch-West German Estel.

The two firms will have equal shares in the new

Chrysler tanks sale

The board of Chrysler, the troubled United States car company, met yesterday to consider a \$350m (£187.5m) offer for its tank division from General Dynamics, one of the leading American manufacturers of military hardware. Talks have also been going on between the two companies and the

Tin market on verge of crisis

By Michael Prest

London's tin market was on the verge of crisis last night despite recent attempts by the London Metal Exchange authorities to restore calm. The price of cash tin rose another £110 to £8,945 a tonne, while the three months price fell £32 to £8,045.

Dealers said that the major buyer who has dominated the market since last summer did not sell any tin yesterday. This forced up the price of cash tin and widened still further the backwardation — cash prices are normally lower than forward prices. Tin is needed by speculators who went short three months ago and whose contracts mature on February 25 and 26.

The LME committee is therefore faced with the real danger that a corner in tin has been built up. On Tuesday the committee said that after discussions with ring dealing members it had reached an understanding that the premium on cash tin should be limited to £120.

But market sources said that the supply tightness, which loomed later in the month and which was the authorities' main concern, had spread to almost all dates for February delivery. As a result, normal trading on the LME in market has virtually ceased and the LME committee is faced with a major challenge.

Trading yesterday was largely limited to switching between different delivery dates as traders tried to match their obligations. Dealers have complained for several months that industry has left the market, and some fear that LME's reputation is being damaged.

The immediate cause of the squeeze is delay to tin shipments aggravated in the view of some traders by the misjudgment of market psychology by the LME committee. But behind these factors lies heavy buying since last July which traders believe has come from tin producers led by Malaysia. The buyers have spent at least £35m acquiring more than 50,000 tonnes of tin.

CBI Budget plans 'modest'

By Edward Townsend and Rupert Morris

The Confederation of British Industry's plea for a £1,800m boost for industry would not throw the Government's economic plans off course and out of kilter, Sir Terence Beckett, CBI director-general said yesterday.

He had issued a challenge to the government to accept the CBI's Budget proposals which he reckoned were modest, constructive and absolutely consistent with the government's overall objectives.

Speaking in London, Sir Terence said: "Even more important, they are one hundred per cent consistent with the best interests of United Kingdom trade and industry. That is why they deserve to be supported and adopted."

"What our package does is to enable the Chancellor to keep one of the major promises of this government's election manifesto — to restore the health of our economic life and still control inflation."

The CBI is seeking an

increase in productive investment in 1982-83 of £250m, rising to £1,000m the following year, which would be more than offset by reductions in government current spending.

The National Insurance Surcharge, which the CBI wants cut by two per cent, was now widely recognised as a tax on jobs and home-produced goods and virtually a subsidy for imports, he said.

"In fact, NIS is the exact opposite of an export subsidy and if we attempted to levy such a subsidy, we would soon have Gatt and the EEC breathing down our necks. How perverse can you get?"

Meanwhile a reduction in interest rates is the key to the recovery for British industry, according to the Association of British Chambers of Commerce in its budget submissions to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The association, which represents 57,000 member firms through its 87 local chambers, believes its approach to be more realistic than the CBI's "catch-all" package which it sees as lacking any consistent policy.

Warning that failure to help industry cut costs and increase output will leave it not "leaner and fitter" but "smaller and weaker", the Association put forward two alternative strategies.

The first, and more favoured, strategy is simply to reduce the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement by £3,000m, immediately reducing interest rates and, so the argument goes, stimulating private investment and boosting output.

But anticipating that such a drastic pruning of the PSBR may prove politically impossible, the Association suggests an alternative approach on reducing industry's costs.

This strategy requires a 50 per cent cut in employers' National Insurance Surcharge, cheaper energy for British firms, a reduction in public utility charges and investment in road and rail systems.

Jobbers hit by lean market

By Sally White

Roller-coaster share prices and the low ebb of interest in British equities last summer caused a slump at Smith Bros., one of the two quoted jobbing firms on the London market. There was a pretax loss of £798,000, as a result of which the dividend for the six months to October 23 has been halved at 0.5p, paid out of reserves.

Mr Anthony Lewis, the chairman, says there has been an appreciable improvement in trading in the third quarter. He adds: "It is impossible at this stage to forecast the results for the full year."

The loss per share is 3.7p as against earnings per share of 7p for the same period of the previous year.

Smith Bros. does not deal in gilt-edged stock but trades in 1,800 different shares across many of the equity sectors, and specializes in the gold market.

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